

REMARKS

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

In Claims 13, 18 and 19, “internal member” has been amended to “support pin” in response to the Examiner’s objection on the grounds of lack of support. Corresponding amendments have been made in Claims 14 and 24. It has also been clarified that the support pin prevents the internal tubular wall face of the blank from moving radially inwardly.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102(b)

U.S. Patent No. 5,199,751 (Beagle) discloses a collar in which grooves are formed on both the external and the internal faces of the fastener wall. Therefore the internal face of the collar is not prevented from moving radially inwardly by the internal member pin. In the present invention however, grooves are only formed on the external surface of the fastener wall, because the support pin prevents the internal face of the blank from moving radially inwardly.

Furthermore, in Beagle, the squeezing of the tubular wall is achieved by the insertion of the mandrel 51. The external members are not closed onto the external wall face *to form* the grooves; it is necessary for the mandrel to be inserted to expand the inner die assembly to deform the collar against the external members.

Therefore the objection against Claim 13 and its dependent claims on the basis of Beagle is respectfully traversed.

U.S. Patent No. 3,889,511 (Bayle) discloses a method of forming a connector having outwardly projecting folds 14. The formation of longitudinal grooves (20) on the *internal* face of

the connector wall is disclosed (column 3 line 33 and Figures 5 and 7). However, the formation of grooves on the *external* wall of the connector is not disclosed. Therefore the objection against Claims 13, 24 and their dependent claims on the basis of the disclosure in Bayle is respectfully traversed.


United States Patent No. 687,464 (Sullivan) discloses a two-part die used to form a thread on a blank, wherein grooves are formed on both the internal and external faces of the wall of the blank. The internal member H is provided with a screw thread, and therefore does not prevent the internal face of the blank from moving radially inwardly.

Therefore the objection against Claims 13 and its dependent claims on the basis of Sullivan is respectfully traversed.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims of the application are allowable over the rejections of the Examiner. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact one of the undersigned attorneys at (312) 704-1890.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 26, 2007

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